

## NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

## Adopted and Filed Emergency After Notice

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code sections 481A.38, 481A.39, 481A.48 as amended by 2011 Iowa Acts, Senate File 464, and 455A.5(6), the Natural Resource Commission hereby amends Chapter 97, “Common Snipe, Virginia Rail and Sora, Woodcock and Ruffed Grouse Hunting Seasons,” Iowa Administrative Code.

The amendments add mourning doves and Eurasian collared-doves to the species covered in Chapter 97 and set the season dates, bag and possession limits, shooting hours, and areas open to hunting doves. The amendments also require the use of nontoxic shot while hunting doves.

Notice of Intended Action was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on May 4, 2011, as **ARC 9495B**. A public hearing was held on May 24, 2011. Numerous comments were received in support of and in opposition to the proposed amendments. The season dates, bag and possession limits follow those allowed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Since publication of the Notice, the Eurasian collared-dove was added to the list of species that can be taken based upon recommendations from the USFWS enforcement personnel. The collared-dove is not a migratory species, yet most states include the collared-dove as a legal species during the season since it is similar in appearance to the mourning dove. Additionally, the requirement for nontoxic shot was added by the Natural Resource Commission at its July meeting pursuant to its authority in Iowa Code section 481A.38(1) to regulate the method and means of hunting and in response to public comment.

The Department maintains that the new dove season will have a positive impact on jobs in Iowa. The USFWS conducted a National Hunting and Fishing Survey in Iowa in 2006 and found that, on average, Iowa hunters spent \$104/day hunting upland game. Surveys conducted by Southwick & Associates in surrounding states show a range of 15,000 to 20,000 dove hunters, each of whom hunts doves an average of 3.3 days a year. These data, when transferred to Iowa, would show a potential economic impact of \$5.1 to \$6.8 million. Additionally, Southwick & Associates’ 2006 survey from surrounding states shows a trend of 1 job created for every 733 days of hunting. Again, these figures when transferred to Iowa would show a potential for 67.5 to 90 new jobs.

The Department finds, pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.5(2)“b”(2), that the normal effective date of these amendments should be waived and that these amendments should be made effective August 17, 2011, as the amendments confer a benefit by establishing a September 1 start date to the dove hunting season.

These amendments are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 481A.38 and 481A.39 and section 481A.48 as amended by 2011 Iowa Acts, Senate File 464.

These amendments will become effective August 17, 2011.

The following amendments are adopted.

ITEM 1. Amend **571—Chapter 97**, title, as follows:

COMMON SNIPE, VIRGINIA RAIL AND SORA, WOODCOCK,  
AND RUFFED GROUSE, AND DOVE HUNTING SEASONS

ITEM 2. Adopt the following new rule 571—97.6(481A):

**571—97.6(481A) Dove season.** Open season for hunting mourning doves and Eurasian collared-doves shall begin on September 1 and continue for 70 consecutive days. Shooting hours shall be from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day. Daily bag limit is 15; possession limit is 30. The entire state is open. No person shall take a mourning dove or Eurasian collared-dove on any land or water of the state

of Iowa while having in one's possession any shot other than nontoxic approved by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

[Filed Emergency After Notice 7/22/11, effective 8/17/11]

[Published 8/10/11]

EDITOR'S NOTE: For replacement pages for IAC, see IAC Supplement 8/10/11.